

Serial No.: 10/541,782
Art Unit 2621

PU030018
Customer No. 24498

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) In combination with an ISO/ITU H. 264 compliant video decoder containing a deblocking filter,
an error concealment stage that receives decoded macroblocks for concealing errors in macroblocks having missing/corrupted data by estimating their pixel values from previously transmitted macroblocks to yield error concealed macroblocks for input to the deblocking filter which by deblocking the error concealed macroblocks avoids the spread of erroneous pixel values,

wherein the error concealment stage varies the strength of the deblocking performed by the deblocking filter in accordance with an error concealment technique.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The decoder according to [claim 2] claim 1 wherein the error concealment stage modifies the strength of the deblocking filter by modifying a boundary strength value on transitions between concealed macroblocks and error-free (correctly received) macroblocks.

4. (currently amended) The decoder according to [claim 2] claim 1 wherein the error concealment stage modifies the strength of the deblocking filter by modifying a boundary strength value on transitions between pairs of concealed macroblocks.

5. (currently amended) The decoder according to [claim 2] claim 1 wherein the error concealment stage modifies a Quantization Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between concealed macroblocks and correctly received macroblocks.

6. (currently amended) The decoder according to [claim 2] claim 1 wherein the error concealment stage modifies a Quantization Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between pairs of concealed macroblocks.

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7. (original) The decoder according to claim 3 wherein the error concealment stage modifies a Quantization Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between concealed macroblocks and correctly received macroblocks.

8. (original) The decoder according to claim 4 wherein the error concealment stage modifies a Quantization Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between pairs of concealed macroblocks.

9. (currently amended) The decoder according to [claim 2] claim 1 wherein the error concealment stages varies each of a pair of offset values A and B for the deblocking filter.

10. (original) The decoder according to claim 9 wherein the error concealment stage modifies the strength of the deblocking filter by modifying a boundary strength value on transitions between concealed macroblocks and error-free (correctly received) macroblocks.

11. (original) The decoder according to claim 9 wherein the error concealment stage modifies the strength of the deblocking filter by modifying a boundary strength value on transitions between pairs of concealed macroblocks.

12. (original) The decoder according to claim 9 wherein the error concealment stage modifies a Quantization Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between concealed macroblocks and correctly received macroblocks.

13. (original) The decoder according to claim 9 wherein the error concealment stage modifies a Quantization Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between pairs of concealed macroblocks.

14. (original) The decoder according to claim 10 wherein the error concealment stage modifies a Quantization Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between concealed macroblocks and correctly received macroblocks.

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15. (original) The decoder according to claim 10 wherein the error concealment stage modifies a Quantization Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between pairs of concealed macroblocks.

16. (currently amended) A method for smoothing transitions in decoded macroblocks, comprising the steps of:

detecting if a decoded macroblock has errors attributable to missing/corrupted pixel values, and if so,

concealing errors by estimating the missing/corrupted pixel values from previously transmitted macroblocks to yield an error-concealed macroblock; ~~and~~

filtering the error concealed-macroblock by a deblocking filter to smooth the transitions artificially created by [the] an error concealment [algorithm] technique;

varying the strength of the deblocking performed by the deblocking filter in accordance with the error concealment technique.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) The method according to [claim 17] claim 16 wherein the step of [modifying] varying the strength of the deblocking filter comprises modifying a boundary strength value on transitions between concealed macroblocks and error-free (correctly received) macroblocks.

19. (currently amended) The method according to [claim 17] claim 16 wherein the step of [modifying] varying the strength of the deblocking filter comprises modifying a boundary strength value on transitions between pairs of concealed macroblocks.

20. (currently amended) The method according to [claim 17] claim 16 further comprising the step of modifying a Quantization Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between concealed macroblocks and correctly received macroblocks.

21. (currently amended) The method according to [claim 17] claim 16 further comprising the step of modifying a Quantization Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between pairs of concealed macroblocks.

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22. (original) The method according to claim 18 wherein the error concealment stage modifies a Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between concealed macroblocks and correctly received macroblocks.

23. (original) The method according to claim 18 further comprising the step of modifying a Quantization Parameter (QP) average for the deblocking filter between pairs of concealed macroblocks.

24. (currently amended) The method according to [claim 17] claim 16 further comprising the step of varying each of a pair of offset values A and B for the deblocking filter.